



Friends of WALKDEN Station

# PRESS RELEASE

30 December 2009

## **Green light for Sunday trains at Walkden !**

Following a 3-year campaign by FOWS, on December 19<sup>th</sup> Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority (GMITA) agreed to fund a one-year trial of Sunday rail services from Walkden.

The trial service will start in May 2010 and run between Wigan Wallgate and Manchester Victoria via Atherton and Walkden. It is understood the service will be hourly with the last train of the day leaving Manchester at around 6pm. As such, the service is more limited than the weekday timetable but FOWS welcome its introduction and believe service levels may be increased in future if sufficient passenger demand can be demonstrated.

It is many years since Walkden lost its Sunday train service. FOWS have long argued that the booming passenger numbers witnessed by Walkden on other days of the week, together with the abundance of commercial and leisure destinations now opening on Sundays, mean the return of the train service is long overdue.

FOWS wish to thank GMITA for their financial support and commitment to the trial service, and Northern Rail for undertaking the operational aspects of the new service. Sunday services on the Walkden line are beyond the scope of Northern Rail's so-called "stand-still" franchise agreement, and thus FOWS are especially grateful for Northern's commitment to this trial.

The return of Sunday trains to this popular railway line has been supported by numerous politicians in Salford, Wigan and Manchester. We would particularly like to mention Barbara Keeley MP and local councillors Ian Macdonald and Iain Lindley who have worked closely with FOWS and given active support to this campaign.

### **About the Friends of Walkden Station (FOWS)**

FOWS is a community volunteer group that campaigns for improved services and facilities at Walkden station in Greater Manchester. The group perform voluntary activities such as gardening, litter collections, and cleaning to improve the station environment.

FOWS works in partnership with Salford City Council, Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority, and Northern Rail.

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Website: [www.walkdenstation.org.uk](http://www.walkdenstation.org.uk)  
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The logo for Friends of Walkden Station (FOWS) features the letters 'F' and 'WS' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Between the 'F' and 'WS' are five green dots of varying sizes, arranged in a pattern that suggests a train or a signal.

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